

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of sequence SEQ ID No. 1 and a fragment of this sequence encoding a protein having α -1,4 glucanotransferase enzymatic activity.

27. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence which is complementary to the sequence according to claim 26.

28. (previously presented) A cloning and/or expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence according to claim 26.

29. (previously presented) A cloning and/or expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence according to claim 27.

30. (new) A method for modifying a starch produced by a plant, said starch comprising an amylopectin that is enriched in chains containing at least 9 glucose residues, with respect to a starch produced naturally by the plants, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a) constructing an expression vector according to claim 28;

b) transforming a plant cell with said expression vector;
and

c) regenerating the plant from the cell transformed in step b, said transgenic plant thus obtained producing a starch comprising an amylopectin that is enriched in chains containing at least 9 glucose residues.

31. (new) A plant, or part of a plant, in which the level of expression of an α -1,4 glucanotransferase enzyme encoded by the nucleotide sequence as defined in claim 26 is increased in the cells of said plant so that said plant produces a modified starch comprising an amylopectin that is enriched in chains containing at least 9 glucose residues, with respect to a starch produced naturally by the plant.

32. (new) The plant or part of a plant according to claim 31, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of potato, wheat, maize and rice.